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Russian imperial authorities, the scientific exploration of the coast-line of the Pacific in the Far East is to be undertaken. It has been arranged that a distinguished zoologist and member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society shall undertake the exploration at the cost of the Society, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. The expedition intends to make investigations with a view to classifying the marine fauna and flora on the coast of the Russian territory, and the conditions of zoological life will also be investigated upon the Liao-Tong peninsula, and in the adjacent regions of Manchuria and Korea. The period for these investigations has been fixed at two years, and the cost of the expedition is estimated at 12,000 roubles. The Geographical Society has promised to make a grant of 7,500 roubles towards this sum, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Imperial Domains will contribute the remaining 4,500 roubles. The Ministry of Agriculture has been led to take a part in this expedition in the expectation that its results will be of great service in developing the coast industries of the Amur and the Island of Saghalien, and also in the districts which have been acquired lately by the Russian government. The Geographical Society also entertains great hopes of the successful results of this expedition, in view of the fact that the previous expeditions sent by it to investigate the Black, Azov and Marmora seas were particularly successful. The expedition to the Far East will work in conjunction with the Society for Exploring the Amur Territory, and intends to establish at Vladivostock a zoological station for studying the marine fauna of the district.

PROFESSOR J. MILNE writes to *Nature* that unusually large seismograms were obtained in the Isle of Wight on September 3d, 10th, 17th, 20th and 23d. The first three refer to disturbances originating in Alaska. The fourth refers to disasters in Asia Minor, and the last to an earthquake having an origin as distant as Japan. Since the 23d, in the Isle of Wight, and also at Kew, not the slightest movement has been recorded. The inference is that the great earthquakes reported as having taken place at Darjeeling on the night of September 25-26th are at the most small and

local, and are not likely to have been recorded outside the Indian Peninsula. It is extremely likely that the tremors noticed in Darjeeling were due to landslides, and seismic phenomena were entirely absent.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

DR. BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, recently professor of Greek in Cornell University, was inaugurated President of the University of California on October 25th. Addresses were made by President Jordan, of Stanford University; President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins University, and President Wheeler.

By the will of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York, Yale University receives \$100,000 and Vanderbilt University \$50,000.

MR. CHARLES HOLCROFT has given £20,000 for the new Birmingham University. Other smaller gifts have also been announced, bringing the total endowment to £315,400. The endowment of Mason College of £200,000 will be transferred to the University, giving it a total endowment of over £500,000.

It is proposed to enlarge the Durham University College of Science at a cost of £50,000. About £10,000 for this purpose was recently subscribed at a preliminary meeting.

THE attendance at Harvard University, not including Radcliffe College and the Summer School, is this year in all 4,067 students, an increase of 155 over last year. The numbers in the different classes and schools are as follows:

	1898-'99.	1899-'00.
Seniors.....	369	311
Juniors.....	335	351
Sophomores.....	508	507
Freshman.....	471	497
Specials.....	168	190
Totals.....	1,851	1,896
Science School.....	415	494
Graduate School.....	322	315
Divinity School.....	26	27
Law School.....	551	604
Medical School.....	560	550
Dental School.....	139	132
Veterinary School.....	25	24
Bussey Institution.....	23	25
Totals.....	3,912	4,067

THE registration at Columbia University is as follows :

	1898.	1899.
The College.....	387	439
Law School	342	369
Medical School.....	697	743
School of Applied Science.....	431	431
Faculties of Political Science, Philosophy and Pure Science,	262	256
Teachers College	234	272
Barnard College.....	257	258
	<hr/> 2610	<hr/> 2768

THE registration in the several departments of the University of Michigan is as follows :

Literary Department.....	1,279
Law Department.....	782
Medical Department.....	469
Engineering Department.....	268
Dental Department.....	246
Pharmaceutical Department.....	75
Homœopathic Department.....	68
Total	<hr/> 3,187

It is estimated that the total enrollment at Cornell University will this year be 3,000, as compared with 2,543 last year.

ACCORDING to the Allahabad *Pioneer Mail*, as quoted by *Nature*, during the past year, no fewer than 11,000 candidates presented themselves for the various examinations of the Madras University, and of these slightly over 4,000 were successful. The fees paid by candidates amounted to nearly Rs. 1,87,000; while sundry items, including about Rs. 10,000 interest on Government securities swelled the income of the University to a little over two lakhs of rupees. The total expenditure for the year came up to Rs. 1,80,000, of which sum Rs. 1,38,000 were absorbed by examiners' fees. The Arts Examinations, as usual, yielded the greatest portion of the University income—the total fees realized from candidates amounted to over one and a half lakhs of rupees, while payments to examiners came up to Rs. 90,000. The Law Examinations yielded a quarter of a lakh of rupees, while the examiner's fees only amounted to slightly over half this sum. The Medical and Engineering Examinations, however, are conducted at a loss; but, after balancing receipts and expenditures, the University realized a net profit during the past year of Rs. 10,000, without reckoning the Rs. 10,000 accruing as interest from Government securities.

AT Harvard University Mr. R. J. Forsythe has resigned his position as instructor in metallurgy, and his place has been taken by Mr. Albert Sauveur. C. H. White has been reappointed an assistant in mining. Mr. G. S. Rayner has been appointed to take charge of the mining laboratory.

CALEB Y. HARRISON, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins, 1898), has been appointed professor of machine design in the University of Wisconsin.

FRANK B. SANBORN has been elected assistant professor of civil engineering at Tufts College.

THE new instructors and assistants in the several departments of chemistry of the University of Michigan are as follows: Eugene C. Sullivan, Ph.D., instructor in organic chemistry; George A. Hulett, Ph.D., instructor in general chemistry; Harrie N. Cole, assistant in qualitative chemistry; Fred L. Woods, assistant in quantitative chemistry; Norman F. Harriman, assistant in chemical technology; Harry M. Gordin, Ph.D., assistant in chemical research; Howard B. Bishop, laboratory assistant in chemistry; Arthur M. Lindauer, assistant in organic chemistry; Alfonso M. Clover, B.S., assistant in general chemistry, and George M. Heath, Ph.D., assistant in pharmacy. The title of Moses Gomberg, Sc.D., has been changed from instructor in organic chemistry to assistant professor in organic chemistry.

LORD ROSEBERY has been elected rector of Glasgow University by 829 votes to 515 votes cast for Lord Kelvin.

AT Cambridge University Mr. W. L. H. Duckworth, M.A., has been appointed to the University lectureship in physical anthropology.

ALFRED TINGLE, S.B. (London & Aberdeen), Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania), has become instructor of chemistry in the University of Wisconsin.

DR. GUSTAV ROSCH has been appointed professor of electro-technology at the Technical School, at Aachen.

DR. SIGMUND FUCHS, assistant professor of physiology at the University of Vienna, has been appointed professor of the anatomy and physiology of domestic animals at the Agricultural Station, at Vienna.